

**MINUTES OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REVENUE
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room W140 West Office Building, State Capitol Complex

January 28, 2008

Members Present: Sen. Bill Hickman, Co-Chairman
Rep. Sheryl Allen, Co-Chairman
Sen. Gene Davis
Rep. Jim Bird
Rep. Jackie Biskupski
Rep. Julie Fisher
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro

Members Excused: Sen. Dan Eastman

Staff Present: Dr. Andrea Wilko, Chief Economist
Dr. Thomas Young, Economist
Jennifer Eyring, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Rep. Allen called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m.

Housing and Community Development

Gordon Walker, Director, Division of Housing and Community Development, introduced Jonathan Hardy, Community Services Director, and Lloyd Pendleton, Director, Homeless Task Force. The question from the previous meeting about sub-prime loan problems in the state was addressed in greater detail. Charts showing the growth in the budget and assets were presented. The FTE level has remained the same during this growth. Repayment revenues to the Community Impact Fund have grown and provide stability during economic downturns. The WebGrants management information system provides applications and information online, reducing paperwork and costs for the Division and the applicants. Contracts still have hard copies as well as digital records. The Division now has three auditors. The entire process has been streamlined and letters were read from grantees about the effectiveness and time savings with the new process.

Rep. Allen relinquished the chair to Sen. Hickman.

Questions from the committee were addressed. The Division is requesting \$600,000 ongoing funds and \$1,000,000 supplemental funds for the Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund, and \$1,000,000 ongoing funds for the Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust Fund. The Community

Services Office administers five programs: The Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust Fund, The Emergency Food Network, Community Services Block Grant, Critical Needs Housing, and the Emergency Shelter Grant. The Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust Fund activities and projects were discussed in greater detail. Homelessness as a percentage of state population is declining, and the number of the chronic homeless is down with the opening of Sunrise Metro in 2007. Housing First is a program that initially provides housing and then helps people improve their lives. The cost to society before housing is \$33,607 per individual. The cost to society after housing is \$18,997 per individual, a 45% savings. The greater benefit is that it changes lives. A chart showing the state's 12 homeless coordinating councils was presented and discussed. An additional 300 housing units are being planned for property that was purchased last year, with 159 of the units planned for veterans. Questions from the committee were addressed. A handout of the charts was provided to the committee. Nonlapsing authority was requested.

Office of Ethnic Affairs

Jesse Soriano, Director, Office of Ethnic Affairs, addressed the committee. The Office contains the offices of Black Affairs, Asian Affairs, Pacific Islanders Affairs, and Hispanic-Latino Affairs. The Office has sponsored conferences covering business, entrepreneurship, tobacco prevention, health, race conflict, underage drinking, and education. Conferences for the coming year were outlined. The Office collaborates with various other state agencies. Questions from the committee were addressed.

Public Testimony

Pamela Atkinson, Community Advocate, spoke about some of the people who are a part of the Housing First program and the growth they are having in their lives. 27% of the Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust Fund is used for case management and 33% is used for emergency shelter. The public contribution campaign to encourage citizens to check off a contribution on their State tax return continues. A handout summarizing the Fund was given to the committee.

Gina Cornia, Utahns Against Hunger, spoke about emergency food network funding. There are 70 emergency food pantries across the state. A request was made for an additional \$200,000 one-time funds to help the pantries with equipment needs.

Marion Willey, Executive Director, Utah Non Profit Housing Corporation, spoke in support of the Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund and the Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust Fund. The Jefferson Park affordable housing project is about complete in Southern Utah, with support from the Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund. These funds help the homeless and a wide range of people throughout the entire state.

Rep. Mascaro commented on the great needs of people throughout the state and commended the work of the public and private cooperative efforts.

Betsy Wolf, Salt Lake Community Action Program, spoke in support of the Weatherization program. Support was expressed for the \$250,000 one-time funds requested by the Division,

and a request was made for an additional \$250,000 ongoing funds. Weatherization reduces energy usage and costs for low-income households.

Division of Indian Affairs

Dr. Wilko stated that the Division of Indian Affairs is the liaison between the tribes and the Governor and Federal, State and local agencies. Budget details are in the Budget Brief.

Forrest Cuch, Director, Division of Indian Affairs, gave an overview of the Division's activities and projects. The Division partnered with the Governor's Office for a Native American Summit. Digitization projects include American Indian documents, oral histories, stories, legends and tribal archives. The Division is also involved with the repatriation of human remains. Questions from the committee about repatriation were addressed.

Rep. Fisher moved to approve the minutes from January 16, 2008 and January 23, 2008. The motion was approved unanimously, with Sen. Eastman excused.

Zoos

Craig Dinsmore, Executive Director, Hogle Zoo, introduced Jim Hogle, President, Utah Zoological Society Board of Directors. A packet of information about Hogle Zoo was presented to the committee. Record attendance, school field trips, Zoo Lights, conservation programs, membership growth, and plans for future exhibits were some of the accomplishments highlighted. The zoo has reduced its dependency on public funds from 45% to 29% of operating costs while improving programs. Questions from the committee about funding from the ZAP tax and Legislative appropriations were addressed.

Jim Hogle explained the parking arrangement with This Is The Place State Park.

Sen. Davis moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was approved unanimously.

Sen. Hickman adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.